

The Delightful HISTORY of Dorastus and Fawnia.

Wherein is Declared

The Cruelty of *Pandosto* to his fair *Bellaria*; and how the Child *Fawnia* was put into a Boat to be Drown'd, but was taken up by the Sea-side out of the Boat, by a Shepherd: and how he brought up the fair *Fawnia* to keep Sheep; and how *Dorastus* fell in Love with the fair *Fawnia*, &c.



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THE
Delightful History
OF
Dorastus and Fawnia.

CHAP. I.

How Pandosto King of Bohemia, being
jealous of Egistus, attempted to poy-
son him, and how he made his Es-
cape, &c.

IN Bohemia there sometime lived a King,
named Pandosta, Rich and greatly be-
loved of his Subjects and Strangers, and
above all, blessed with a beautiful and vir-
tuous Queen, named Bellaria; who, to
make his Joys the more compleat, in due
time

time brought forth a Son: to Congratulate the Birth of which Prince, many Potentates sent, and some Neighbour Princes came in person; amongst the latter was Egistus King of Scicilia, who had been brought up with Pandosto, to him he shew'd more than ordinary kindness and respect, and ordered his fair Queen to do the like; who (to please her Husband in pleasuring his Friend) us'd such modest familiarity, as created in the end a Jealousy in Pandosto, which he suffered to come to that height, that he grew outrageous, and nothing but the Life of Egistus could be propos'd as a satisfaction: and to bring his Revenge to a period, he consulted with one Franion his Cup-bearer to poison him; but he at first us'd many Arguments to dissuade him from it, yet finding them invalid, he for fear of threaten'd punishment, and seeming hope of great Reward, promised to comply, but under pretence of delaying till a convenient opportunity presented; he found means to acquaint Egistus with the Treachery form'd against his Life, who (knowing himself Innocent) made some difficulty to believe it, yet convinc'd by many powerful Arguments that it was true, he secretly withdrew himself, and taking Franion

on with him (who durst not stay behind)
sailed into Sicily.

This secret departure known to Pandor-
sto, made him believe his suspicion true,
and thereupon he caused his beautiful Queen
to be put in Prison.

C H A P. II.

How Queen Bellaria was Imprisoned
and brought to Bed of Fawnsia, who
was exposed to the mercy of the
Waves, &c.

THE Queen Bellaria being in Prison
made great lamentation for her hard
misshap, blaming Fortune for her Cruelty,
and wishing she had been born of mean
Birth: during which pensiveness, she
found her self with Child, and was soon
after delivered in Prison, of a beautiful
Daughter; this being known, more enca-
ged the King, who verily supposed it to be
the effects of her Adultery with Egistus, and
therefore commanded both it and her to the
flames; but at the entreaty of his Nobles
changed

changed his Sentence, causing the Infane to be put into a Boat, and left in the main Ocean to the mercy of the Winds and Waves, which was exactly performed; and upon leaving of which, so mighty a Tempest arose, that notwithstanding much danger, the Ship-men got to Shoar.

As for the Queen, he caused her to be brought before him, and notwithstanding all her pleas of innocence, would have passed Sentence of Death upon her, but at last was perswaded (upon hers and his Nobles earnest entreaty, to refer the proof of her Guilt or Innocence to the Oracle of Delphos: and thereupon diverse Noblemen were sent to make enquiry, and being ordered by the Oracle to take up what they found behind the Altar; they there (upon search) found a Schole, which they carried to their Master, upon the opening of which these words were found.

Suspicion is no proof, no Judg is jealousy,

Egilus blameless is, Bellaria Chast;

Nor does true Franion yet deserve to dye,

Pandossa has an ill Act done in hast:

And Childless he shall dye, unless that's

Which he and many more supposes

(found,
(drown'd.

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

How Queen Bellaria was cleared of her
false Accusation, and suddainly dyed
through Grief.

THE King receiving the Scrole at the
hands of those he had sent, by the ad-
vice of his Nobles, would not open it but
in full Assembly, where Bellaria was to be
present, and she upon news thereof greatly
rejoyced; and being read, it pronounced her
Innocent, which caus'd a general Joy, sent
up to Heaven with loud acclamations: in-
somuch that the King being ashamed of
what he had done, not only begg'd her par-
don, but promised to do the like to Egistus
and Franion, whom he confessed he had
wronged: but this joy continued not long
ere it was clouded with sadness, for before
the Assembly departed, news came that Ga-
rinter the Kings Son was suddenly dead,
upon which Bellaria contracted such a sence
of sorrow, that falling down in a Swoon,
she could not be recovered, and upon these ill
events

events, Pandosto doing the like, could hardly be recovered, the which when he did, after he had greatly bemoaned his Queen, and the loss of his Child, accusing himself of Injustice, he caused the Body of the fair Bellaria to be honourably intomb'd; and as a remembrance of the wrong he had done her, caused the following Epitaph to be inscrib'd on her Grave-stone.

Here lies Bellaria who dy'd
Of Grief, when she was justifi'd;
Falsly accus'd indeed was she,
But clear'd by the great Oracles Decree:
Unhappy him, that caus'd his Queen to
(Dye,
For it he bears a brand of Infamy.

And many times he resorted thither, to bewail the loss of so blameless and virtuous a Woman; but to leave him to his sorrows, I will, I shall see what became of the Infant that was committed to the arms of Fortune.

C H A P. VI.

How *Fawnia* was cast on the Shoar of *Sicilia*, and was saved by the means of a Shepherd.

THE innocent Babe, by the harsh Decree of rigorous *Pandosto*, being left to the mercy of the Waves and Wind, floated in the Boat, till such time, as Fortune pitying her, cast her on the Shoar of *Scicily*; where being found by one *Porrus* a Shepherd (directed to her by her tender cry) as he was looking for a lost Sheep, on the Sea-Coast, who perceiving a lovely Infant in a Scarlet Mantle, Embroidered with Gems and Gold, as likewise a Gold Chain about its neck, and a purse of Gold: all which the careful Queen so ordered, that in case the Infant escaped, it might meet with the better fortune; he was surprized with a mixture of joy and fear, joy for having lit on so noble a prize, and fear soasmuch as he was ignorant to what it might tend. But after some consideration, he resolved to carry it home, and for the
Riches

Riches sake, concealing the adventure, sold it as his own, though coming to his Cottage his Wife Mopsa opposed it, as verily believing it was some Great he had gotten abroad; but upon sight of the rich Mantle, Chain, and Purse of Gold, she had other thoughts, and was content both to receive it and conceal it.

With the Gold and Jewels the Shepherd purchased a Farm, and much increased his Store; whilst the Infant (whom he had named Fawnia) grew, and as she grew became amazing beautiful, not knowing otherwise than that Porrus and Mopsa were really her Father and Mother, and to them she paid her utmost Duty and Respect as such, and daily went abroad after she came to maturity, to tend the Flocks.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

How Prince Dorastus fell in Love with
Fawnia, and what ensued.

Fawnia being arriv'd at the age of fifteen, all the neighbouring Shepherds Courted and admir'd her, as the Miracle of Beauty: nor were the intellectual faculties of her Soul less-taking, nor was Fame wanting to speak her praises at the Sicilian Court, but she seem'd cold to love, and still behav'd her self in a modest meek, till one day having been at a Merry-making with others Virgins; in her return she met with Dorastus, the only Son of Egistus King of Sicily, whom a little before his father had advis'd to Marry with Euphania, Daughter to a King of Sweedland, but found him averse to Love: but on this lovely Shepherdess the Prince had scartely gaz'd, e're a surprizing dream of joy shot in to his Soul, and he found himself innamor'd with so taking a Creature? when being

ing told by his Page who she was, he adventured to speak with her, and found her Soul as beauteous as her Body, but at that time they parted; yet mighty Love fixed his Shakes so deep in eithers Heart, that soon after he made a total Conquest. For Dorastus, though he along time struggled to break the Net, by proposing to himself his Fathers Anger, his Loss of Reputation, and a thousand other things, if he should marry one so infinitely inferior to him, as he thought: nor was the Beautious Fawnia less sedulous, a braver Man she imagined she had never seen, and still sleeping or waking she had him in her mind; but knowing he was a Prince, and considering her self as a Shepherds Daughter, she durst not hope for what she so earnestly coveted, but strove to forget what she had seen.

C H A P. VII.

How Dorastus won the love of Fawnia, and attempting to fly with her into Italy, was cast away on the Coast of Bohemia.

DORASTUS'S heart inflamed with love, pondered with himself a thousand ways, how he being the Heir of Sicilia, and his Charming Mistress but a poor Shepherd's Daughter, how he should obtain her without Dishonour, and incurring his Father's Displeasure: but in the end he resolved to love, which takes the Diadem from Kings, and enjoy her (without whom his Life he found would be miserable) and so resolved, as secretly as he could to find her out, which he did in the field, Crowned like the Goddess Flora, with a fragrant Chaplet of what the place would yield; yet in that or in any other posture, the Prince fancied nothing could look more lovely: and there he told his passion large at large, but

Fawnia

Fawnia seemed with much Modesty to excuse it, urging the lowliness of her Birth and Fortune, and the danger she should incur, and the disgrace he would bring upon himself, by such an unequal Match: yet sighing, told him, Had he been a Shepherd she could have fancied him for a Husband, above all Men; but seeing he was a Prince she durst not hope for such a happiness, therefore to respect him and admire his Generosity, was all she could do.

This modest answer to what the Prince had urged, inflamed his Heart the more, and to pleasure (as he thought) his Mistress therein, he got him Shepherds habit, and in that disguise he often visited her, in so much as it came to the knowledge of Porrus, who fearful that the Prince should violate her Chastity, for that he would marry her, he could not hope. Out of a tender care for the beauteous Maid, communicated those fears to his Wife, and they (after many advisings) agreed to make Egistus the King acquainted with it, as likewise the manner of finding Fawnia; yet they carried not their business so close, but it came to the knowledge of Fawnia, who told it to her dear Dorastus, who resolving to run any Hazard, rather than to lose her, whistled

Old Porrus delayed for a fit time to make his Discovery. He Laded a Ship with Treasure and Princely Habilliments, designing to leave his Native Country and go for Italy with his beloved Mistress, till he might by submissive Embassyes win his father to a yielding: when so it hapned, that on the very morning the Ship was privately to weigh Anchor, Capnio (the only Servant the Prince had entrusted with the Secret) met old Porrus, going to do his Message to the King, and understanding as much, lest it should marre the Design, he gave him to understand, that the King was gone to take the Air on the Sea, and that if he would go with him, he would not only show him the Ship, but bring him on board, where he should speak what he had to say to his Majesty. This the old Man believes, and went with him, but instead of finding the King on Board, he (to his great amazement) found there the Prince Dorastus and Fawnia, and knowing his Design was discovered, he fell down and begged the Princes pardon, humbly intreating him he would not violate his Daughters Chastity, nor expose him and his Wife to the fury of the King, who would imagine them pryvy to his Departure: upon this Fawnia blush-
ed,

ed and stood mute, but the Prince raised up the old Man, and tenderly embracing him, comforted him in the best manner; but withal told him, That since his departure was so unluckily discovered, he would not trust him on the Shore with the Secret, but that he must go with him into Italy: this made him begin to entreat the contrary, urging the Distraction his Wife would be in, and the Ruin of his Affairs; but neither these, nor the intreaty of Fawnia (who taking him for her true Father) could not see his Tears abated him: for the Wind standing fair, they hoisted Sail and stood away for Italy; but as Fortune often crosses the Hopes of poor Lovers, though sometimes to render them the more pleasant in the end; so it now hapned, for a Storm arising, they were cast upon the Coast of Bohemia, and there being taken for Spies, by such as guarded the Shore, were carried before Pandosto, which made Dorastus (remembering the Design that King had upon the Life of his Father) to change his Name and Country, calling himself (as he likewise caused the rest to do) Meleagrus, and for his Country, he said it was Trapalonia, of which Country he feigned himself a Knight.

So sodner were they come into the presence of that King, and he casting his Eyes upon the amazing Beauties of the lovely Fawnia, but his old blood was inflamed with Love; wherefore, after he had examined them as Spies, though they urged the contrary, and pleaded the rules of Hospitality: he, that he might have opportunity to speak with Fawnia in private, Impisoned the Prince, Capnio and Porrus, as likewise the Mariners, and ordered that Fawnia should be kept at Court, under a strong Guard; nor was it long, e're having in vain struggled with himself to overcome his Love, he sent for her, and told her his passion-story, laying before her the bait of Greatness and Royalty, but found her not to be overcome; her Constancy towards her dear Prince being insurmountable, and his Misfortune she often bewailed with showers of Tears, entreating she might dye to Ransome him; but nothing could be heard, unless she would condescend to Sacrifice her Honour, which she would not for that nor any Threats or Promises: nor did the Prince less grieve for her, whom he had brought into Distress, and put her as it were into the hands of a fierce Man, whome

he verily concluded would not boggle at any rate to enjoy her.

CHAP. VII.

How Dorastus and Fawnia were Imprisoned by Pandosto, the attempts he made to win her Love, and by what means he came to discover she was his Daughter, &c.

WHilst the two Lovers were bewailing each others Misfortunes, all Sicilia was in sadness and confusion, for loss of their Prince, and no corner of the Country left unsearched: but when Porrus's Wife had made known his Love to Fawnia, and that she was likewise missing, together with old Porrus, Egistus concluded they were fled into some Foreign Land; and the rather, by reason a great part of the Princes Furniture was wanting: whereupon he sent into all the Neighbouring Kingdoms, and at last had the good

good luck to know he was Prisoner in Bohemia, and upon what occasion, which did not a little grieve him; as fearing through the effects of Pandosto's former jealousy, he might to gratify his Revenge, inflict on the Son what was intended for the father; but in the end, laying aside those fears, he sent others of his Lords with rich presents to that King, to intreat that his Son might be sent home, but that he would by any means detain the rest and dispose of them as he thought fit.

Upon the arrival of these Lords in Bohemia, they were generously entertained, and their Message known, Pandosto willingly consented to fulfill the desire of his friend Egistus, whom he said he had wronged, and was glad it was in his power to do him any favour, and had he known the Prisoner had been his Son, he would have treated him in another manner: and thereupon he sent for Dorastus out of prison, and tenderly embracing him, asked his pardon; who then began to intreat to have the beautiful Fawnia put into his possession, to whom he said he was contracted, and the rest that appertained to him: but was answered, That his Father had required the

B 2 contrary

contrary, and that he might depart; but he would punish them as they had deserved, in being conscious of his flight, which had occasioned so much Royal Grief; nor could the Princes reiterate Prayers, Intercessions and Cries, prevail with that rough Man, but causing Caphio, Porrus, and the late Fawnia to be sent for, he (like an Inexorable Judge) Condemned them to Death: for now his Love to Fawnia (through her often despising him) was turned into mortal Hatred, resolving none else should enjoy what he could not.

This terrible Sentence so affrighted old Porrus, that at last, seeing the great reason for which he must Dye, was, for that Fawnia was his Daughter, which indeed she was not; he, in a piteous tone Discovers the whole Truth, as the manner of her Ending, the Ornaments that were upon her, as also the time; and then produced the Mantle and Chain, which Pandosto knowing, and no longer doubting but she was that Daughter of his he had so unnaturally committed to the mercy of the Mages, and whose loss he had oftentimes bewailed, after he was conscious of his hard Mistake; and hoping blessed Heaven for her Miraculous preservation:

preservation ; he leaped from his Throne in an extasie of joy, and tenderly embraced her, whilst amidst a shower of Tears, and many Sighs of Sighs, these words sound
way, O my dear Child, my lovely *Fawnia*, thou art mine ; 'twas I thy unnatural Father that exposed you to that Hazard and Danger, for which (though unseemly for a King) I beg thy dear pardon a thousand times, and bless Heaven that has sent me such a Blessing to comfort my old Age : at this *Fawnia* blush'd and stood mute, whilst Prince Dorastus did no less ; when Pandosta taking her by the Hand, led her to the Prince, and putting her Hand into his, said, Behold Dorastus, this beauteous pledge of Amity, take her as the Gift and Daughter of a King. Upon which, the Lovers (transported with joy) fell down on their Knees, and gave him a thousand thanks.

News of this rare Adventure, spreading through Bohemia and Sicily, caused a general Joy, nor was Egistus averse to the Marriage, which soon after hapned, to the unspeakable satisfaction of the Lovers ; who returned into Sicily in great Triumph, after they had been Royally entertained in
the

the Bohemian Court, where they lived and flourished in love and splendor; the World not affording a more lovely pair: As for Pandosto, the remembrance of the Wrongs he had done to his fair Queen and Daughter, drove him into a Frenzy; and not being strictly watched, he laid violent Hands on himself. And Egistus soon after Dying, both Kingdoms fell to Dorastus; so after the Funerals were over, Dorastus lived in peace with his fair Fawnia a long time after.

THE END.

